

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 230613Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1333

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 842

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, MU

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH ON UN; OMANI REACTION

REF: STATE 170841

1. CHARGE DELIVERED TEXT OF SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH TO FONMIN ZAWAWI JULY 22 AND DISCUSSED POINTS MADE IN REFTEL IN SOME DETAIL. ZAWAWI LISTENED CAREFULLY AND, BASED ON HIS COMMENTS, HE IS FULLY AWARE OF DANGERS POSED BY CONFRONTATION TACTICS INCREASINGLY BEING FOLLOWED BY LDC'S AND THIRD WORLD.

2. AT SAME TIME, FONMIN DESPAIRED OF ANY POSSIBILITY THAT OMANGOV COULD ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING BY BUCKING THE TIDE. AUTOMATICITY OF SUPPORT ON ANTI-ISRAELI MOVES IS UNSHAKABLE AMONGST ARAB STATES AND EVEN OTHER ISLAMIC STATES WILL BE UNDER GREAT PRESSURE NOT TO BREAK RANKS. WITH VARIATION IN COMPOSITION OF SUPPORTERS, SAME IS TRUE ON OTHER ISSUES.

3. ON SPECIFIC QUESTION OF JIDDA RESOLUTION RE EXPULSION OF
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ISRAEL, ZAWAWI ECHOED WHAT SOME OTHER PARTICIPANTS HAVE

TOLD OUR EMBASSIES: RESOLUTION WAS LESSER OF EVILS, GIVEN PRESSURE FROM RADICALS PARTICIPATING IN FONMINS CONFERENCE. HE PORTRAYED RESOLUTION AS SOMETHING AS A QUID PRO QUO FOR AGREEENT NOT TO DISCUSS (AND, IMPLICITLY, TO CONDEMN) EGYPTIAN POLICY OF PURSUING USG-SPONSORED STEP-BY-STEP NEGOTIATIONS. GIVEN THIS POWER PLAY, RESOLUTION THUS WAS AS MUCH AN ANTI-EGYPTIAN MOVE AS AN ANTI-ISRAELI ONE. ZAWAWI INTERPRETATION IS THAT, DESPITE WORDING, INTENT IS TO WORK FOR TIMED SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL RATHER THAN OUTRIGHT EXPULSION (HE MENTIONED SIX MONTHS OR ONE YEAR AS PERIODS WHICH MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT FOR PURPOSE OF UNDERSCORING ISRAELI INTRAN- SIGENCE IN ABIDING BY UN RESOLUTIONS).

4. CHARGE SUGGESTED THAT, PRESUMING SUCH UNQUESTIONING SUPPORT, BEST WAY TO PROTECT LONGER-TERM NATIONAL INTERESTS MIGHT BE TO WORK HARD TO PREVENT UNREASONABLE RESOLUTIONS FROM REACHING THE FLOOR. ZAWAWI AGREED, BUT TACITLY ADMITTED THAT OMAN CARRIES LITTLE, IF ANY, REAL WEIGHT IN CAUCUSES. IN RESPONSE TO QUERY ABOUT ALTERNATIVES TO POSITIVE VOTE IN FALOR OF NONPRODUCTIVE RESOLUTIONS, ZAWAWI STATED THAT ABS- TENTION (IN CASE OF ISRAELI ISSUE) REQUIRED SAME POLITICAL WILL AND DECISION AS NEGATIVE NOTE; ABSENCE WAS NOT AN IMMEDIATELY COMPREHENSIBLE CONCEPT, BUT HE FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT THE USE OF SUCH A TACTIC BY A HANDFUL OF LDC DISSENTERS WOULD NOT HAVE MAJOR IMPACT ON VOTING ON MOST ISSUES.

5. COMMENT: REALISTICALLY WE MUST FACE UP TO FACT THAT OMANGOV INVARIABLY WILL FOLLOW RATHER THAN LEAD IN SHAPING ARAB, THIRD WORLD AND LDC POSITIONS ON ISSUES RAISED IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. ON A FEW SPECIFIC ITEMS WHERE THERE IS DEFINED DIFFERENCE WITHIN ARAB BLOC (E.G. KOREA), OMAN WILL LOOK TO ITS OWN INTERESTS MORE CAREFULLY AND VOTE FOR RESOLUTIONS LIKELY TO HAVE USG SUPPORT. BLEAK TRUTH IS THAT UN IS CONSIDERABLY LESS IMPORTANT TO OMAN THAN IS SUPPORT WITHIN ARAB WORLD; IF ONE HAS TO BE SACRIFICED OR IMPERILED AT EXPENSE OF OTHER, UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES INEVITABLY WILL COME OUT ON SHORT END OF STICK.
ZWEIFEL

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